

the agreements which they have signed as to excluding certain devices in warfare. "The perfidious dual rôle by Germany for years past during international discussions upon the customs of civilized warfare will be better appreciated," Mr. Roberts writes, "if I say that the bulk of the Teutonic poison shells recently recovered by the French bear the date 1911 and that the poison-gas asphyxiating apparatus (described in this book) was under German military consideration in the year 1909." The last Hague Conference was held in 1907. German shell and shrapnel are described as containing considerable quantities of phosphorus. The plea has been put forward that phosphorus was used for illuminating purposes, and thus the better to ascertain the enemy's position, but unfortunately for this excuse these shells have been fired in thousands during broad daylight. The writer has evidently been in close touch with these new war devices, for he describes the incendiary pastilles, Zeppelin bombs, thermit, and so forth, in terms which show that he has actually handled these infernal machines. With regard to Zeppelin and flying-machine bombs he thinks much remains to be accomplished in the way of research and invention. The chief problem appears to be the accurate dropping of bombs, which in the present state of our knowledge have to be light in weight, with a minimum of danger to the machine's crew. On the whole, the view is favored that these difficulties might conceivably be overcome by using wide-spreading poison instead of fire or explosives. It is doubtful whether air attacks have been so far a real menace to our insular position, but we have to reckon with an enemy absolutely unscrupulous in his methods and stopping at nothing that is contrary to all humane dictates. Finally, warfare conducted by poisonous shrapnel, gases, explosives, and bombs opens up fresh considerations for medical treatment.—*The Lancet*.